



"Lo, the star" —

Mireya Valbuena, 7, holds a star used each year in the Christmas program at her church, The Baptist Temple, in Ibague, Colombia. Southern Baptist missionaries in Colombia, like that first Christmas star, are guiding lights to the promise of Jesus Christ. The story of one missionary family there reflects the needs of more than 3,000 missionaries that can be met through the Week of Prayer (Nov. 30-Dec. 7) and Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions. Their story is on page 2.

Board, Committee Elect New Officers

James F. Yates, pastor of First Baptist Church, Yazoo City, was elected president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board; and Charles Pickering, attorney from Laurel, was elected chairman of the Executive Committee of the board as those two bodies held their post convention organization meetings last week.

Pickering was also elected vice-president of the Convention Board, which automatically places him on the Executive Committee; and Mrs. Larry Otis of Tupelo was re-elected secretary of the board. The three Convention Board officers all become members of the Executive Committee.

The other 12 members of the Executive Committee are elected by vote of the Convention Board. They are Ed Gandy, pastor of First Baptist Church, Kosciusko; Dan Thompson, pastor of First Baptist Church, Ackerman; Alton Yarbrough, minister of education at First Baptist Church, Grenada; Mrs. Elise Curtis, Gulfport; Ingram Foster, layman of Prentiss; W. A. Fordham, pastor of First Baptist Church, Petal; Walter Yeldell, pastor of North Greenwood Baptist Church, Greenwood; Joe McKeever, pastor of First Baptist Church, Columbus; W. Lowrey Comper, president emeritus of Clarke College; Charles Stubblefield, pastor of Echu Baptist Church, Echu; Hueston Adkins, pastor of First Baptist Church, Mendenhall; and Murry Alexander, layman of Greenville.

McKeever was elected vice-chairman of the Executive Committee and Mrs. Curtis was elected secretary.

As the board meeting got under way

the members heard Earl Kelly, executive secretary-treasurer, announce that both the national Baptists and the missionaries in Argentina had responded favorably to the proposal that there be a missions connection established between the Mississippi Baptist Convention and Argentina. The missionaries in both Uruguay and Paraguay have also responded favorably to such a connection for these two nations, Kelly noted. The national Baptists in both countries are expected to respond favorably also by early in December, Kelly said.

The board added Fordham to its membership by vote at this session. He replaces Brooks Wester, who was a member of the board from Lebanon Association until he was elected president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

In other action the board handled personnel matters concerning employees and established the distribution of Cooperative Program funds for the four colleges for 1981.

The personnel matters included updating retirement plans to conform to government regulations and increasing automobile allowances to match inflation in the costs of buying and operating cars. Monthly allowances of \$80 were increased to \$90, and monthly allowances of \$160 were increased to \$180.

The Christian Education Commission brought four recommendations to the board. First the commission recommended that the college fund for 1981 be distributed among the four colleges next year due to the fact that Clarke College will operate independently.

(Continued on page 3)



Executive Committee, Officers

Members of the Executive Committee of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board also include the officers of the Convention Board as well as of the Executive Committee. James F. Yates of Yazoo City, front row left, is president of the Convention Board. Charles Pickering of Laurel, front row right, is vice-president of the Convention Board and chairman of the Executive Committee. Julia Otis, of Tupelo, third row center, is secretary of the Convention Board; and Elise Curtis, of Gulfport, second from right, front row, is secretary of the Executive Committee. Joe McKeever of Columbus, second from left, front row, is vice-chairman of the Executive Committee. Other members of the Executive Committee are, second row left to right, Charles Stubblefield of Echu, L. Edward Gandy of Kosciusko, and Hueston Adkins of Mendenhall; third row left to right, W. A. Fordham of Petal, Dan Thompson of Ackerman, W. Lowrey Comper of Newton, and Alton Yarbrough of Grenada; and fourth row left to right, Walter Yeldell of Greenwood, Murry Alexander of Greenville, and Ingram Foster of Prentiss.

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EXEC COMMITTEE

BENNETT HAROLD

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Jewish Prayer Issue Considered

Sensational, Controversial Missing From Conventions

By Dan Martin

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Record numbers of messengers turned out for most of the 34 state Southern Baptist conventions and three fellowships, but the rumored strife, takeover attempts and confrontations did not materialize.

One editor—Jack Harwell of the Christian Index—characterized the Georgia meeting as “more like a ‘love feast’ than a convention.” Another—C. R. Daley of the Kentucky Western Recorder—editorialized that “those looking for the sensational and controversial . . . looked in vain.”

Bailey Smith, president of the SBC, was highly visible in the conventions, even though he personally appeared in only two of them. Every meeting received a telegram from him in which he expressed his “deepest support and prayers.” He asked the presidents of each convention to request messengers to “pray that I shall do everything possible to create an atmosphere of harmony, love and brotherliness in our most glorious denomination.”

Smith, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church of Del City, Okla., has become controversial in recent months over remarks he made saying God does not hear the prayers of Jews. Six conventions took note of the issue.

West Virginia Baptists became so embroiled in debate over a resolution which claimed God does not hear the prayer of a non-Christian that they tabled the issue until the 1981 convention.

Tennessee Baptists declined to deal with the specifics—the resolutions committee ruled resolutions supporting Smith and dealing with the Jewish prayer question “inappropriate.” Messengers, however, decried anti-Semitism in a resolution. District of Columbia and Virginia Baptists dis-

agreed with Smith and said they will speak for themselves.

In Oklahoma, Smith, also president of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma, asked messengers not to act on the Jewish prayer matter. They adopted a statement supporting him for his leadership in the state and SBC. He declined to seek re-election.

Two other conventions—North Carolina and Indiana—resolved to praise Smith for his leadership, while Texas lauded SBC leadership but specifically refused to include Smith by name.

Virtually every convention went on record favoring a resolution suggested by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board which asked Congress to restore the \$20,000 income tax exemption to religious and charitable workers overseas. The only debate came in Maryland, over church-state questions.

South Carolina, Georgia and Texas, and the Iowa fellowship reaffirmed the Baptist Faith and Message statement of 1963; Oklahoma and the Northwest affirmed an “inerrant and infallible” Bible; and the District of Columbia and Illinois commented the Bible can and should speak for itself.

Colorado messengers called for the respect of individual dignity and responsibility in matters of politics, theology, personal and social issues, and supported local church autonomy in the question.

Virginia Baptists denounced “creeping creedalism,” reaffirmed “loyalty to the Scriptures” and voiced strong opposition “to any who would attempt to determine how our brothers would state their faith.”

In North Carolina, convention president Cecil Sherman, pastor of First Baptist Church, Asheville, denounced

those who would take over denominational institutions. He said the issue is not theology, but control, and he criticized attempts to make him toe a creedal line to serve the convention.

Sherman, who has been a leader in an effort to get “friends of missions” to attend the 1981 Southern Baptist Convention in Los Angeles, was easily re-elected despite an effort to unseat him by M. O. Owens Jr. of Gastonia, a well known conservative leader.

Takeover Action

Three other conventions saw action on takeover attempts. In Ohio, Grady Cothern, president of the Baptist Sunday School Board, said current strife in the 13.4 million-member denomination is “a planned assault by the devil himself to divert Southern Baptists” from Bold Mission Thrust goals. Kentucky and Georgia messengers resolved to send messengers to national conventions and Northern Plains called for prayer for the 1981 SBC meeting.

An Untiring Experience

OGBOMOSHIO, Nigeria—Helen Graves was almost ready to attend a prayer meeting of Southern Baptist mission workers in Ogbomosho, Nigeria, when she heard a noisy group of young boys outside.

Helen and her husband, Allen W. Graves, retired dean of the School of Religious Education of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, are spending a year teaching at the Nigerian Baptist Theological Seminary, Ogbomosho.

Just before time for her to leave, the boys returned and stopped in front of her house. They seemed to be having an argument over a wheel they were rolling. When Mrs. Graves tried to sort out the problem, they ran, leaving the wheel behind.

Having none of this, she called the boys back and told them to take the wheel. She did not want it lying in her front yard.

Obediently, they returned and rolled it away.

Mrs. Graves didn't make it to prayer meeting that day, but she did learn something about the wheel. It had been stolen off a missionary car.

(Continued on page 3)

Time Is Tight For Passage Of Income Tax Exclusion Bill

WASHINGTON (BP)—Prospects for passage of a measure to restore the \$20,000 exclusion on income earned by religious and other charitable workers in less developed countries improved here when the Senate Finance Committee attached it as an amendment to another bill expected to pass this session.

Before legislators left Washington for a brief Thanksgiving holiday, the Senate panel, chaired by Sen. Russell B. Long, D-La., added the income tax exclusion language to H.R. 4968, a bill dealing with real estate investment trusts.

Sources close to the finance committee told Baptist Press the bill is likely to pass the Senate after the body returns from the Thanksgiving break on Dec. 1. It would then go to the House of Representatives for action, but only days before final congressional adjournment.

In an effort to shore up support in the House, Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board President R. Keith Parks

called on fellow Southern Baptists to encourage members of Congress to support H.R. 4968 and the income tax exclusion when it reaches the House floor.

Indications are that the House delegation from Mississippi already supports such a measure. Mississippians may wish to confirm their appreciation of such support by phoning the House at (202) 224-3121, or wiring members at House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20515.

“It is too late for letters to be effective. Only phone calls and telegrams will get the job done,” Parks warned.

For the past several months most legislative attention to the matter has centered in the Senate, where Sen. John H. Chafee, R-R.I., and numerous co-sponsors have pushed a bill to renew the exclusion.

According to finance committee members, the exclusion was inadvertently dropped two years ago when

Congress passed the Foreign Earned Income Act of 1978, a measure designed to tax the income of Americans living abroad. Under previous tax law, however, charitable workers overseas who earned less than \$20,000 annually were exempted from U.S. taxes.

Among the reasons for the older law was the view that Americans serving such organizations overseas provide services which reap good will toward the United States and the fact that nearly all American citizens living abroad also pay taxes to host governments.

Unless Congress acts to restore the income tax exclusion, charitable organizations stand to lose an estimated \$25 million annually.

The Foreign Mission Board alone would lose \$1 million per year to the Internal Revenue Service. Payment for tax year 1979 would be due Dec. 15 and for tax year 1980 June 15, 1981, meaning approximately \$2 million would have to be paid during the FMB's current fiscal year.

Mississippian's Las Vegas Horror Ends With Happy Thanksgiving

By Linda Lawson

LAS VEGAS, Nev. (BP)—Thanksgiving came six days early for Ann and Charles Smith.

As flames swept through the MGM Grand Hotel the morning of Nov. 21, the Smiths fought smoke, fear and the possibility that each had perished in the flames, before being reunited nearly five hours later at Sunrise Hospital.

Ann Smith, a consultant in the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's family ministry department, Nashville, Tenn., had concluded a single adult conference the evening before. The Smiths were preparing to check out and return to Nashville, where she maintains a marriage, family and child counseling practice. She is the former Ann Alexander of Jackson, a former youth director at Jackson's First Church.

An estimated 83 persons died in the hotel officials estimate contained as many as 8,000 persons, including guests and employees, when flames erupted shortly before 7:30 a.m. (PST).

Smith had left their room on the 25th floor to go to the lobby to find a bellman. Ann was talking by phone to

J. Clark Hensley in Jackson, Miss., a longtime friend and director of the Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission.

At that point their separate nightmares began.

When the elevator doors opened in the lobby, Smith was met by a black wall of smoke. He remained on the elevator, which went to the 17th floor and stopped. He got off there and tried to return to the 25th floor.

“I tried to telephone her from the 17th floor, but I had to go through the hotel operator and there was no response at the switchboard,” Smith said.

He climbed to the 21st floor but was halted by smoke and a locked fire escape door. Using a Kleenex to filter the smoke-filled air, he returned to the fifth floor where he got out on a roof and then the ground.

Smith was then taken by bus to the Las Vegas Civic Center where an emergency center had been established. There he met bus after bus containing evacuees from the hotel, in a futile search for Ann.

Meanwhile, when Ann smelled smoke and heard fire engines, she put down the telephone and went to the

window. Seeing the smoke and flames she rushed to the hallway and found it filled with smoke.

She escaped to the balcony and attempted to lower herself to the floor below.

“My feet would not touch from one banister to the next. I just sort of hung by one hand and gave myself a boost so I'd go over on the balcony of the next floor and not land on the railing,” she said. “I really thought I was much closer (to the floor of the balcony below).”

As she landed on the 24th floor balcony, her left leg broke and a bone pierced the flesh. She crawled into the room and wrapped a wet towel around her leg. She then returned to the balcony and began waving another towel to gain the attention of firemen below.

“I was afraid if I went back into the room, nobody would find me,” she said.

“I think I have faced death in a way that I had never faced it before. I realized my fear would be in dying, not in death. I just prayed for all the people who were, at that point, worse off than I was,” she continued.

“I just prayed the Lord would provide

(Continued on page 3)

Total Income From Holders Goes To Lottie

By Mary Jane Welch

RUSSELL, Ky.—The \$200 Jeanie Johnson gave to the 1979 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering last year doesn't sound exactly like the widow's mite. But the sums were equal in one way—\$200 was all Jeanie had.

Born 40 years ago with multiple physical problems, including epilepsy and a degenerative muscle disease, Jeanie lives in a nursing home near her mother's house here. Each year she saves every penny she can earn or is given as Christmas or birthday gifts and sends it to the First Baptist Church of Russell for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, says her pastor, James S. McKenzie.

Jeanie can use only one arm now. She cannot move her wheelchair or hold her head up without help, but she makes potholders on a small metal frame which she places on a tray across her wheelchair. She sells these to anybody who comes to the nursing home.

“That's one of her first offers—‘Let me sell you some potholders’—then she tells them where the money goes,” says McKenzie.

She doesn't buy anything for herself. “Every time I visit her, she tells me how much she's got up to this point for her Christmas offering, and that's what she works for all year long,” he says. “She's got a fantastic spirit. She tries the best she can to witness to the people in the home.

“It's difficult for them to understand what she is saying, and yet she is absolutely constant in her witness. And when I talk with her and go by to see her, she always is sharing that she is in prayer for me and the church and for missionaries, and basically, really, this is her life,” he says.

That's not too surprising, considering Jeanie's background. Her mother placed Jeanie in the nursing home five years ago after Jeanie's health problems became worse. But she raised Jeanie in a Christian home and still walks to the nursing home for frequent visits.

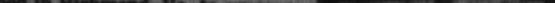
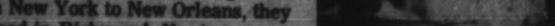
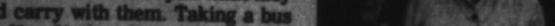
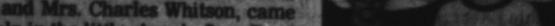
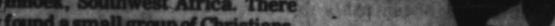
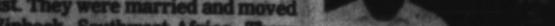
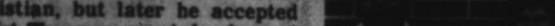
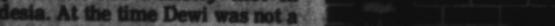
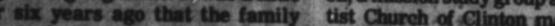
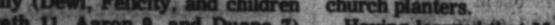
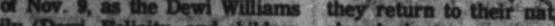
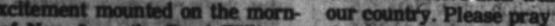
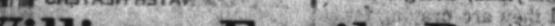
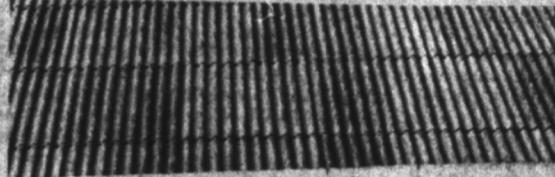
Jeanie was never able to attend school, but “because her mom has always been active in the church and active in Woman's Missionary Union and missions work, she's been well educated there,” says McKenzie.

The 1980 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions has a goal of \$45,000,000. The week of prayer for the offering is Nov. 30-Dec. 7.

Faces of Foreign Missions

Photos by Don Rutledge

My World, My Life, My Witness



Mississippians Active In Organizing Men

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP)—A group of 101 Southern Baptist laymen and pastors from 17 states voted in Memphis to organize a national fellowship of Baptist Men.

The action came at the close of two days of inspirational addresses and small group discussions about how Southern Baptists can use their vocations to make Bold Mission Thrust a reality through their churches and denominations.

The decision to form an organizational umbrella encompassing various vocational groups of laymen followed brief reports by each of the 10 vocational groups on how they want to become involved in sharing the gospel with the world during the next 20 years.

Larry Otis of Tupelo, Miss., convenor of a vocational group on agriculture which included former SBC president Owen Cooper of Yazoo City, Miss., made the recommendation to organize the fellowship.

The recommendation calls for each of the 10 fellowship groups to nominate one representative and one alternate to an organizational committee, with the Brotherhood Commission adding another seven men to it.

The committee would perfect the organization of a fellowship of Baptist Men to include a charter, bylaws, temporary officers and commissioners. The temporary organization would be authorized to set up an office at the commission, seek volunteers and secretarial help, establish and raise a budget and take other necessary action to initiate the organization.

A national meeting of Baptist Men would be held within 20 months to consider the charter and bylaws, the recommendation said.

The vocational groups elected the following persons to the organizational committee:

Pat Baughman of Hilton Head Island, S.C., sales; Bob Kersten of Ma-

land, Fla., education and communication; George L. McGuffee of Monroe, La., law enforcement and elected public officials; Donald I. Gent of Evansville, Ind., health services; J. B. Crawley of Campbellsville, Ky., engineering, construction and data processing; Norvell Jones of St. Louis, finance, banking, insurance and investments; Ralph Stewart of Memphis, management and manufacturing; Sam Platt of Columbus, Miss., transportation; William Rhodes of Atlanta, legal; and Cooper, agriculture.

Gent, a hospital administrator and secretary of the SBC Executive Committee, who proposed the meeting four months ago, presided.

More than 400 leading Baptist laymen were invited to attend regional meetings the Brotherhood Commission conducted in April and May at the request of the Executive Committee to identify ways the men could become involved in Bold Mission Thrust.

One of the recurring requests was for a national fellowship, Gent recalled.

Education Commission Names Tuten Chairman

Joe Tuten, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, Jackson, was elected chairman of the Christian Education Commission during the commission's organizational meeting last week.

Billy Thunes, president of Copiah-Lincoln Junior College, was elected vice-chairman. Thunes had been vice-chairman in



Tuten



Thunes



Fowler

asked not to be considered for chairman again due to a heavy schedule at the college.

Fred Fowler, pastor of Southside Baptist Church in Jackson, was re-elected secretary.

During its meeting the commission adopted its recommendations on distribution of funds to colleges. These recommendations are detailed in a story on the meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

The commission also voted to take under advisement a report from the trustees of William Carey College that reflects "revised plans for operation of the William Carey College campus on the coast."

The William Carey trustees' report was presented by Ralph Noonkester, president of the college, and Jim Keith, vice-chairman of the trustees.

Israel Baptist Choir Set For National TV

JERUSALEM (BP)—Singers of Praise, a 40-voice choral group known locally as the Baptist Community Choir, will perform with singer Perry Como during his "Christmas in the Holy Land" show. The one-hour ABC-TV special will be aired Saturday, Dec. 13 at 10 p.m. (EST).

Despite the scorching October sun and the hot wind from the Judean desert, the choir was filmed for over four hours near the ancient wall of the Old City of Jerusalem. They sang several specially arranged Christmas songs with Como, including "The Holy City," "Christ Is Born," and "Ode to Joy."

Singers of Praise, a volunteer choir based at Baptist Village, was chosen for the show by an Israeli agent. "Several professional choirs also were considered, but ours was selected on the basis of a tape made during the spring concert series," explained Southern Baptist representative Suzanne Mantooth, chairman of the arts committee of the Israel Baptist Mission.

Named to the Church-Minister Advisory Committee were Charles Bass of Columbia, Adkins, Wayne Griffith of Lyon, William Waddle of Grenada, Ed McDaniel of Durant, and Clark McMurray of Pascagoula.

For the Missions and Evangelism Committee were Bruce Jolly of Sandersville, Ernest K. Sadler of Brookhaven, Bill Webb of Meridian, Walter Price of Fulton, Glenn Byrd of Nekoosa, Anthony Kay of Calhoun City, and Kenneth Stringer of Wesson.

The allocations were the third recommendation. They were as follows:

Blue Mountain, \$32,944, cost per full-time student equivalent—\$1,096; Clarke, \$258,964, cost per FTE—\$1,608; Mississippi College, \$1,032,968, cost per FTE—\$447; and William Carey, \$704,622, cost per FTE—\$495.

This is a total of \$2,326,500. It is to be compared with \$2,178,000 for 1980.

The fourth recommendation was that capital funds for the four colleges be allocated \$33,250 to each as an equal site allocation and \$267,000 be distributed on a per capita basis. These were one-year allocations due to the pending merger of Clarke College and Mississippi College. Normally, such capital fund allocations are projected for up to five years in advance.

The capital fund breakdown recommended for 1981 was \$19,144 for Blue Mountain, \$10,253 for Clarke, \$147,037 for Mississippi College, and \$90,566 for William Carey, in addition to the \$33,250 for each.

The Education Commission report passed in its entirety.

Committee Members

Committee members were appointed for the board membership. Named to the Budget and Cooperative Program Committee were W. E. Phillips of Bay Springs, Pickering, Jim

Mississippi Baptist Activities

Dec. 7 Foreign Mission Day in Sunday School

Dec. 8-9 Preaching Conference, Immanuel, Grenada, 2:00 p.m., 8th-3:30 p.m.

9th (CAPM)



Singing Churchmen Executive Committee

These men constitute the executive committee of the Mississippi Singing Churchmen. They are Bill Sellars, Brandon, publicity; Truitt Roberts, Starkville, handbell director; Gary Anglin, Jackson, president-elect; George McFadin, Oxford, president; Jim Hayes, Hattiesburg, south director; Louis Nicolsi, Poplarville, instrumental director; and Jim Hess, Pontotoc, north director.

Youth Evangelism Conference '80

December 29-30, 1980

Mississippi College Coliseum

Don Witzel, Presiding

Monday Afternoon: Are You Ready?

- 1:00 Registration
- 2:00 Congregational Music — Bruce Fields
- 2:15 Welcome and Introductions — Don Witzel
- 2:20 Evangelism Training — Jack Stanton
- 3:00 Concert — Andrus, Blackwood and Company
- 4:30 Dismiss

Monday Evening: Are You Ready to Live?

- 7:00 Choral Music — Fairview Baptist Church, Columbus
- 7:10 Congregational Music — Bruce Fields
- 7:25 Choral Music — West Jackson Church, Tupelo
- 7:35 Evangelism Training — Jack Stanton
- 8:15 Announcements — Don Witzel
- 8:25 Choral Music — First Baptist Church, Canton
- 8:35 Message — Barry Landrum
- 9:15 Afterglow — Bruce Fields
- 10:00 Dismiss

Tuesday Morning: Are You Ready to Love?

- 9:00 Congregational Music — Bruce Fields
- 9:15 Choral Music — Parkway Baptist Church, Natchez
- 9:25 Evangelism Training — Jack Stanton
- 10:10 Announcements — Don Witzel
- 10:15 Concert — David Meece
- 11:00 Message — Frank Case
- 11:30 Dismiss

Tuesday Afternoon: Are You Ready to Leave?

- 1:30 Congregational Music — Bruce Fields
- 1:45 Choral Music — First Baptist Church, Greenville
- 1:55 Evangelism Training — Jack Stanton
- 2:40 Announcements — Don Witzel
- 2:45 Concert — David Meece
- 3:30 Message — Frank Case
- 4:30 Decision Time
- 4:30 Dismiss

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 3
Thursday, December 4, 1980

Missionaries Reported Safe In Upper Volta

RICHMOND, Va.—Southern Baptist mission personnel in Upper Volta are safe following a military coup which overthrew the country's president, Aboubakar Sangoule Lamizana, Nov. 25.

In a call to the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board the morning after the coup, missionary Ray Etelman reported that all mission personnel were in Ouagadougou and that activity in the streets appeared normal. There is a dusk-to-dawn curfew and the airport is closed.

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Sensational, Controversial Missing From Conventions

(Continued from page 1)

more prominently in four conventions. In Virginia, messengers fell 15 votes short of reaching the two-thirds necessary to change their constitution to make gifts to the Cooperative Program the main test of messenger qualification. In Kentucky, messengers heard without opposition first reading of a change to their constitution which would qualify messengers on the basis of Cooperative Program gifts and/or membership.

In Tennessee, a motion was referred to the bylaws committee which would require officers to be members of a church which gives at least 10 percent of its budget through the Cooperative Program.

Speaking to the New York convention, SBC President Smith promised messengers he is leading his church to increase Cooperative Program giving by 300 percent.

Convention institutions figured in six meetings. Virginia Baptists withheld funds from the Virginia Baptist Hospital in Lynchburg until it clarifies its abortion policies; Mississippi Baptists okayed the merger of Clarke College, a junior college, and Mississippi College; Tennessee Baptists turned down graduate programs for its three schools, and Missouri messengers okayed a request changing Southwest Baptist College to Southwest Baptist University, provided it does not offer graduate courses.

In Texas and Oklahoma, messengers received reports about two criticized schools, Oklahoma Baptist University and Baylor University. The OBU report suggested closer communication between the school and state congregations; the Baylor report said trustees were working to fulfill convention-ordered directives.

Six conventions approved "linking" resolutions. Tennessee Baptists agreed to work with both Michigan and Upper Volta; North Carolina and Georgia will work with West Virginia and Missouri will assist Taiwan in evangelism efforts.

Two conventions—Northwest and California—struggled with membership. Northwest messengers compromised on a proposal which would require associational approval for

Nelson's Surgery Was Successful

Art Nelson, business manager for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, had double bypass heart surgery last Friday. His wife said the doctors told her he came through very successfully and responded remarkably well. Nelson is at Mississippi Baptist Medical Center.

Many a man keeps thinking of himself as very important until nobody else does.

Some will wrangle for religion; write for it; fight for it; die for it; anything but live for it. — C. C. Colton

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Mid-Americans Elect Crow

Danny M. Crow, pastor of West Marks Baptist Church, Marks, was elected president of the Mid-America Seminary Alumni Association during the association's meeting Nov. 12.

The association had a breakfast meeting in Jackson as its members were gathered for the Mississippi Baptist Convention. Gray Allison, president of the seminary, was the speaker.

The group elected Terrell Stringer, pastor of Pleasant Ridge Baptist Church, Woodland, as vice-president of the association and Carl Prewitt, pastor of Believers Baptist Church, Shelby, as the secretary.

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AMERICA'S FIRST BIBLE PUBLISHER

The Baptist Record

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Editorials

In California . . .

America's biggest mission field

The decision of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board to join forces in missions work with the Southern Baptist General Convention of California and with the Foreign Mission Board for work in Argentina, Paraguay, and Uruguay offers an interesting and exciting concept.

This is particularly true from my standpoint as far as California is concerned, for I spent two interesting and exciting years there as editor of the California Southern Baptist.

California offers the most in just about everything. First, of course, it has the most population of any state in the nation. I believe the figure now is approaching 24 million. It was 22 million when I was there. It would follow then, that there are also more lost people in California than in any other state. This is true not only because of the larger population but also because the unchurched there seem to make up a very large percent of the population. There may be states with unchurched percentages as great or greater than California's, but their population would not be as great.

It may not be a fact, but I always wondered if there were not more lost people in California than there are members of all of the churches of all denominations combined.

This will at least indicate the size of the task that faces the Southern Baptists in California. They are a sizeable group, numbering probably close to 300,000; but compared with the task at hand, the odds are tremendous. That gives an indication of the challenge that faces Mississippi Baptists as we move in to try to help the Californians turn the tide. To give a comparison, Mississippi Southern Baptists number 300,000 in a population of about 1.2 million. This is pure beauty.

For some reason, however, my favorite of the mountain parks was Kings Canyon. On a clear day we could see the snow capped peaks of Kings Canyon National Park from our kitchen window. They were about 80 miles from our house. Whenever we had "flatland" visitors, that is where we went. The Yosemite Valley was only 100 miles from our house; and, of course, Sequoia National Park joins Kings Canyon to the south. Sequoia is where the giant sequoia trees are located, one of them said to be the oldest living thing on earth. It is supposed to be about 1,800 years old.

There are other "mots" in California. Some of the most beautiful scenery in the world is there. Sun-drenched San Diego is almost the perfect spot. The temperature stays around 80 degrees a great deal of the time because of the influence of the ocean, and the ocean itself provides a lovely backdrop for the city.

Called one of the most beautiful places in the world is the Monterey Peninsula. This is the location of the famous Carmel-by-the-Sea and the mountains.

All of this is to say nothing about Los Angeles and San Francisco. Both have their charm and their interest, but my interests were in the ocean and the mountains.

equally famous Pebble Beach Golf Course. Though the weather and the water are colder along the Monterey Peninsula than at San Diego, the scenery is breath-taking.

The mountain parks of the Sierra

Nevadas are as beautiful as the advertising folders claim they are. As one pauses on the slope of the Sierra Nevadas just before entering the Yosemite Valley and surveys the scene before him, it is indescribable. This is pure beauty.

My predecessor as California editor, J. Terry Young, now a professor at New Orleans Seminary, told me that working in California is the same as working on a mission field. This is true, and the California Southern Baptists are doing yeoman work.

And this brings the discussion to the last of the superlatives about California. Some of the finest people in the world are out there. We formed some of the strongest friendships of our lives there. The Baptists are fine, and the lost people are fine. The lost are happy-go-lucky, gregarious people, but they are lost. This doesn't bother them, because they don't realize it. They are lost, nevertheless. Someone needs to help them. The California Baptists are trying mightily, but there are so many of the lost that the task is overwhelming.

The need is clear. We must go. —DTM

DTM

<p

Mission Gifts Of Mississippi Baptist Churches Thru Convention Board

Jan. 1, 1980-November 30, 1980

Assn. Miss. Designated, WMU & All				Assn. Miss. Designated, WMU & All				Assn. Miss. Designated, WMU & All				Assn. Miss. Designated, WMU & All				Assn. Miss. Designated, WMU & All			
Co-op	Other	Total	Co-op	Other	Total	Co-op	Other	Total	Co-op	Other	Total	Co-op	Other	Total	Co-op	Other	Total		
ADAMS			SILIAN	6,912.00	1,000.70	8,752.30	HOLMES			WILCOX	4,200.00	32,720.00	30,720.00	GLADING	620.00	590.61	1,212.61		
BRIEL AVE	1,37.76	1,400.00	2,47.00	WESTEND	1,242.00	1,705.12	1,951.17	ANTIOCH	4,200.00	24,400.00	28,600.00	RUSSELL	435.64	580.20	1,015.30				
CLIFF TEMPLE	2,084.71	1,278.19	3,262.90	COHAN	6,399.00	28,910.32	31,309.34	ANTIOCH	6,700.00	174.00	6,874.00	SALEM	525.00	1,020.00	1,545.00				
CLOVERDALE	3,130.76	1,900.00	5,030.76	ANTIOCH	1,242.00	2,044.00	3,286.00	CALVARY DURANT	1,000.00	354.76	1,354.76	SAVANNAH	21,998.18	16,020.74	38,028.92				
FBC HATCHET	20,048.21	1,247.20	21,295.41	BETHEL	2,113.00	2,044.00	4,157.00	ESBENEZER	1,000.00	1,045.00	2,045.00	LIBERTY	6,476.00	6,476.00	6,476.00				
HEGARTON	14,991.00	1,248.21	23,237.21	COHAN ASSN	480.00	281.00	761.00	FBC DURANT	1,000.00	2,100.00	3,100.00	MISS ASSN	1,110.00	1,110.00	1,110.00				
PARKRAY	36,476.07	17,111.00	53,587.07	COHAN LINE	1,242.00	2,044.00	3,286.00	FBC TCHALA	2,300.00	1,045.00	3,345.00	PEACE	1,100.00	1,100.00	1,100.00				
SPRINGFIELD	3,051.00	1,386.15	4,439.15	FBC CRYSTAL SPRGS	61,826.01	20,061.90	81,886.91	HORSESHOE	997.93	2,062.00	2,062.00	PEACE	1,622.68	2,071.55	3,694.23				
SPRINGFIELD	2,990.02	1,744.70	4,734.72	FBC CRYSTAL SPRGS	2,000.00	4,200.00	6,200.00	HORSESHOE COONAN	1,000.00	1,121.45	2,121.45	PEACE	1,622.68	2,071.55	3,694.23				
SPRINGFIELD	140,751.13	50,727.55	210,478.68	FBC CRYSTAL SPRGS	2,000.00	4,200.00	6,200.00	MT. VERNON	2,000.00	2,045.00	4,045.00	PEPPER	500.00	500.00	500.00				
WASHINGTON	2,490.02	1,744.70	4,234.72	FBC CRYSTAL SPRGS	2,000.00	4,200.00	6,200.00	ODGENS LAKE	2,000.00	2,045.00	4,045.00	PEPPER	500.00	500.00	500.00				
WHEELER GROVE	140,751.13	50,727.55	210,478.68	FBC CRYSTAL SPRGS	2,000.00	4,200.00	6,200.00	ODGENS LAKE	2,000.00	2,045.00	4,045.00	PEPPER	500.00	500.00	500.00				
ALCORN				FBC CRYSTAL SPRGS	2,000.00	4,200.00	6,200.00	ODGENS LAKE	2,000.00	2,045.00	4,045.00	PEPPER	500.00	500.00	500.00				
ALLIANCE				FBC CRYSTAL SPRGS	2,000.00	4,200.00	6,200.00	ODGENS LAKE	2,000.00	2,045.00	4,045.00	PEPPER	500.00	500.00	500.00				
ANTIOCH NO 2	9,100.00	1,266.56	10,366.56	FBC CRYSTAL SPRGS	2,000.00	4,200.00	6,200.00	ODGENS LAKE	2,000.00	2,045.00	4,045.00	PEPPER	500.00	500.00	500.00				
BETHLEHEM	1,481.71	1,278.37	2,750.08	FBC CRYSTAL SPRGS	2,000.00	4,200.00	6,200.00	ODGENS LAKE	2,000.00	2,045.00	4,045.00	PEPPER	500.00	500.00	500.00				
COHAN ASSN	4,812.14	3,120.00	7,932.14	FBC CRYSTAL SPRGS	2,000.00	4,200.00	6,200.00	ODGENS LAKE	2,000.00	2,045.00	4,045.00	PEPPER	500.00	500.00	500.00				
COHAN LINE	720.00	1,266.56	1,986.56	FBC CRYSTAL SPRGS	2,000.00	4,200.00	6,200.00	ODGENS LAKE	2,000.00	2,045.00	4,045.00	PEPPER	500.00	500.00	500.00				
DANVILLE	1,008.07	1,281.47	2,282.54	FBC CRYSTAL SPRGS	2,000.00	4,200.00	6,200.00	ODGENS LAKE	2,000.00	2,045.00	4,045.00	PEPPER	500.00	500.00	500.00				
FBC BIGGERSVILLE	1,017.07	3,482.71	11,107.05	FBC CRYSTAL SPRGS	2,000.00	4,200.00	6,200.00	ODGENS LAKE	2,000.00	2,045.00	4,045.00	PEPPER	500.00	500.00	500.00				
FBC BIGGERSVILLE	80,303.70	23,671.22	104,974.92	FBC CRYSTAL SPRGS	2,000.00	4,200.00	6,200.00	ODGENS LAKE	2,000.00	2,045.00	4,045.00	PEPPER	500.00	500.00	500.00				
FBC BIGGERSVILLE	1,252.25	1,007.00	2,259.25	FBC CRYSTAL SPRGS	2,000.00	4,200.00	6,200.00	ODGENS LAKE	2,000.00	2,045.00	4,045.00	PEPPER	500.00	500.00	500.00				
FBC BIGGERSVILLE	2,376.00	1,647.20	3,023.20	FBC CRYSTAL SPRGS	2,000.00	4,200.00	6,200.00	ODGENS LAKE	2,000.00	2,045.00	4,045.00	PEPPER	500.00	500.00	500.00				
FBC BIGGERSVILLE	1,252.25	1,007.00	2,259.25	FBC CRYSTAL SPRGS	2,000.00	4,200.00	6,200.00	ODGENS LAKE	2,000.00	2,045.00	4,045.00	PEPPER	500.00	500.00	500.00				
FBC BIGGERSVILLE	1,252.25	1,007.00	2,259.25	FBC CRYSTAL SPRGS	2,000.00	4,200.00	6,200.00	ODGENS LAKE	2,000.00	2,045.00	4,045.00	PEPPER	500.00	500.00	500.00				
FBC BIGGERSVILLE	1,252.25	1,007.00	2,259.25	FBC CRYSTAL SPRGS	2,000.00	4,200.00	6,200.00	ODGENS LAKE	2,000.00	2,045.00	4,045.00	PEPPER	500.00	500.00	500.00				
FBC BIGGERSVILLE	1,252.25	1,007.00	2,259.25	FBC CRYSTAL SPRGS	2,000.00	4,200.00	6,200.00	ODGENS LAKE	2,000.00	2,045.00	4,045.00	PEPPER	500.00	500.00	500.00				
FBC BIGGERSVILLE	1,252.25	1,007.00	2,259.25	FBC CRYSTAL SPRGS	2,000.00	4,200.00	6,200.00	ODGENS LAKE	2,000.00	2,045.00	4,045.00	PEPPER	500.00	500.00	500.00				
FBC BIGGERSVILLE	1,252.25	1,007.00	2,259.25	FBC CRYSTAL SPRGS	2,000.00	4,200.00	6,200.00	ODGENS LAKE	2,000.00	2,045.00	4,045.00	PEPPER	500.00	500.00	500.00				
FBC BIGGERSVILLE	1,252.25	1,007.00	2,259.25	FBC CRYSTAL SPRGS	2,000.00	4,200.00	6,200.00	ODGENS LAKE	2,000.00	2,045.00	4,045.00	PEPPER	500.00	500.00	500.00				
FBC BIGGERSVILLE	1,252.25	1,007.00	2,259.25	FBC CRYSTAL SPRGS	2,000.00	4,200.00	6,200.00	ODGENS LAKE	2,000.00	2,045.00	4,045.00	PEPPER	500.00	500.00	500.00				
FBC BIGGERSVILLE	1,252.25	1,007.00	2,259.25	FBC CRYSTAL SPRGS	2,000.00	4,200.00	6,200.00	ODGENS LAKE	2,000.00	2,045.00	4,045.00	PEPPER	500.00	500.00	500.00				
FBC BIGGERSVILLE	1,252.25	1,007.00	2,259.25	FBC CRYSTAL SPRGS	2,000.00	4,200.00	6,200.00	ODGENS LAKE	2,000.00	2,045.00	4,045.00	PEPPER	500.00	500.00	500.00				
FBC BIGGERSVILLE	1,252.25	1,007.00	2,259.25	FBC CRYSTAL SPRGS	2,000.00	4,200.00	6,200.00	ODGENS LAKE	2,000.00	2,045.00	4,045.00	PEPPER	500.00	500.00	500.00				
FBC BIGGERSVILLE	1,252.25	1,007.00	2,259.25	FBC CRYSTAL SPRGS	2,000.00	4,200.00	6,200.00	ODGENS LAKE	2,000.00	2,045.00	4,045.00	PEPPER	500.00	500.00	500.00				
FBC BIGGERSVILLE	1,252.25																		

Staff Changes

Kenneth McMillen began serving as new pastor of Byhalia, Marshall County, Nov. 30

He is a native of Pontotoc County and a graduate of Blue Mountain College. He has been pastor of Bradford Chapel and Spring Hill in Calhoun and Clear Creek in Lafayette Association. His wife is the former Sarah Brand from Calhoun County. They have three daughters: Angela, Lynn, and Amy.

James S. Allen is the new pastor of Scotland Church, Montgomery County. He went there from the pastorate of Valencia Street Church, New Orleans, La.

Born at Coffeeville, Miss., Allen received a degree from Baptist College at Charleston, S.C., and has studied at New Orleans Seminary. He is married to Alice Fay Vaughn of Water Valley; they have two sons.

While in the U.S. Air Force for 23 years he traveled extensively in Europe and Asia Minor. While in England he was interim pastor of the Suffolk Southern Baptist Church at Lakenheath. Also he has served in churches in New Jersey and South Carolina.

BWA Official Ordained Late, Called Years Ago

WASHINGTON (BP) — He may have been 45 years late, but Fred Rhodes, retired government official, former Southern Baptist Vice president and current treasurer of the Baptist World Alliance, was ordained to the gospel ministry Sept. 21.

Rhodes, 66, was a young pre-law student at Colgate University when he first felt God calling him into the ministry in 1935. But he continued his law education, then enlisted in the army.

After his discharge in 1947, he established his career on Capitol Hill where he was deputy administrator of the Veterans Administration and chairman of the Postal Rate Commission. He has been a prime figure in Charles Colson's prison ministry and is a direct descendant of Roger Williams, who founded the first Baptist church in America.

Rhodes was a charter member and is currently interim pastor of the Briggs Memorial Baptist Church in Westmoreland Hills, Md., where his ordination took place.

Genevieve Zachary, of Homer, La., formerly of Mississippi, has completed 27 years and six months of perfect attendance in all church services, plus Sunday School, Church Training, prayer meeting, and WMU.

Presenting Our Staff

Jimmy and Brenda Downs—
Houseparents—Jackson Campus
since August, 1980

The Children Are Saying:

On Wednesday evening, November 26, children and staff on the Jackson campus observed our on-campus Thanksgiving service in Powell Chapel, under the leadership of Ruth Glaze, The Village's Christian Education Director and Rev. Graham Smith, Associate Pastor of Morrison Heights Baptist Church in Clinton. The "blessing tree," a Thanksgiving tradition at The Village, represented the center of interest. The tree is always bare, except for the notes upon which the children have written their blessings, and which literally cover the branches which would otherwise be empty. As a part of the service, each child and each staff member pulls a note from the tree and offers a prayer of thanksgiving for the blessing recorded on that note.

One of our smallest boys, who had apparently heard the story of The First Thanksgiving for the first time, offered this audible prayer: "Lord, please bless the poor people, and help the Indians to come back and have Thanksgiving dinner with us."

We cordially invite our friends to visit any holiday service or any mid-week service on the Jackson campus and worship with our children.

Respectfully,

Paul N. Munnery

Executive Director

JACKSON CAMPUS - FARROW MANOR CAMPUS - NEW ALBANY HOME

Pastor At Wedding Asks For God's Name On His Creation

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina— Iguazu Falls on the border between Argentina and Brazil are known by tourists from all over the world for their natural beauty. At one point—Devil's Throat—the falls plunge 237 feet down a rocky ledge more than two miles wide.

"I'm the only preacher who can hold louder than Devil's Throat," says Southern Baptist missionary Charles Campbell in jest, explaining why he was asked to perform a recent wedding ceremony in the national park.

The wedding between Blanca Nieve and Eddie Smith, a tour guide who is very active in a mission of the church where Campbell is pastor, and Richard Kyle, a forest ranger in Iguazu National Park, was carried on national TV on the evening news.

Ever since she was a little girl Blanca Nieve had dreamed of being married at the falls, but never in her wildest dreams did she imagine her wedding would be the media event it turned out to be.

The boat concessionary estimates his boatmen made 15 trips bringing 20-22 people each trip to the falls where they were joined by several tour groups from Europe that added another 100 people to the welcomed but uninvited guest list.

After numerous interviews with newspaper and television reporters,

the ceremony began. With his back to Devil's Throat—site of several suicides—Campbell began "a very evangelistic and Baptist, a la Campbell, wedding ceremony" for the young Argentines.

"Blanca Nieve and I did not cede them one millimeter in maintaining our Christian evangelistic witness," states Campbell. "We very definitely honored the Lord as best we knew how."

Campbell said the Iguazu River ran higher and swifter that day than he had ever seen it. "The crowd seemed so deeply moved they almost hesitated to break up when the ceremony was over. So many people have commented on the moving words and the beauty of the place, as well as the sweet and smooth flowing witness."

But the occasion did have some humorous sidelights.

The bride came to the wedding with her brother in a 1924 vintage Ford painted bright canary yellow. The car had a flat tire and later had to be towed with bride and groom in it to the wedding reception.

"Some of the elderly women tourists in their 80s stopped my wife Bernadene and me and asked us if we were the 'novios'—the bride and groom," says Campbell. "I almost wanted to lend them my old worn out glasses so they wouldn't ask such things with

straight faces, but Bernadene did look like a bride."

"It was an exciting and impressive occasion and it was a real opportunity I never bargained for. I'm thankful to the Lord for the privilege of preaching Christ to so many who would never have received our message."

Campbell added one final thought: "Instead of being called Devil's Throat I wish that beautiful creation was called 'The Voice of God.' "

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La. Church Endows Chair Of Discipleship At NOBTS

SHREVEPORT, La. (BP) — Broadmoor Baptist Church will endow a chair of discipleship at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, the first fully funded chair at the seminary.

The funding requires a minimum of \$250,000, according to John Sullivan, pastor of Broadmoor and president of the Louisiana Baptist Convention. The church will give \$100,000 corporately, and raise the additional \$150,000 from among its 4,400 members in three years or less, Sullivan said.

The endowment will create the first chair of discipleship at any Southern Baptist Seminary and perhaps any other seminary, according to Landrum Leavell, president of New Orleans Seminary.

"All of us on campus were overwhelmed when word reached us of the action of Broadmoor," Leavell said. "It was especially appreciative because, 'in these days in which criticism of our seminary is so prevalent in some quarters, it is significant that

those who know us best continue to support us and encourage us.'

"What we are hoping is that the chair will be a very practical approach in the life of the ministers to discipleship," said Sullivan, whose church has led the state convention in Cooperative Program support for several years. "The students will develop their personal prayer life, devotional Bible study, quiet time and skills in leading people to the Lord. They will also develop the skills to train others in the same discipline."

Homecomings

Bellevue, Lamar County, will observe its 28th anniversary with homecoming, Dec. 7. Morning services begin with Sunday School at 9:45 a.m., worship service at 11, a fellowship meal at noon, and afternoon service at 1:30. James L. Yates is pastor.

CHILDREN CHRISTMAS CONCERN

YOU CAN FIND THE SEASON'S MEANING IN HELPING US BRING COMFORT AND JOY TO DEPENDENT CHILDREN AT THE VILLAGE.



A GOOD GIFT: A package under the Village tree for a child of your selection or ours. Packages may be mailed or delivered.

A BETTER GIFT: A Christmas remembrance of clothing from you to one of our boys or girls. Contact us for names, needs and sizes.

THE BEST GIFT: A generous cash contribution to our HOLIDAY FUND. Our greatest need again this Christmas is cash contributions from individuals to a HOLIDAY FUND which will supply each child with a modest material remembrance at Christmas and underwrite our food and milk budget for the entire new year.

On the Jackson Campus — on the Farrow Manor Campus
In our New Albany Group Home —
and at Dickerson Place

OUR CHILDREN COUNT ON CHRISTIANS AT CHRISTMAS

For further information Write
THE BAPTIST CHILDREN'S VILLAGE
Box 11308 — Delta Station
Jackson, Mississippi 39213
Call — Jackson — 922-2242

Wesson Choirs To Present Cantatas

Wesson Church Choirs under direction of Sharon Channell will perform Christmas cantatas by Jon Peterson.

"Down From His Glory" will be presented by the adult choir (pictured) at 7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14, in the sanctuary. Accompanists will be Charlotte Smith, pianist, and Eddie Smith, organist. The Christmas message will be narrated by Ken Stringer, pastor. A reception will be held in the church basement following the presentation.

"Carol of Christmas" will be performed by the 32-member youth choir at 7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 21. Accompanist will be Jim Channell, pianist.

A fund raising spaghetti supper will be sponsored by the youth choir from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. on Dec. 21, before the presentation of "Carol of Christmas." The proceeds will be used to help finance the youths' summer retreat.

Just For The Record

Mr. and Mrs. Claude May were honored on Nov. 16 for their service to Mt. Nelson Church, Neshoba County. The church gave them a plaque of appreciation "for many years of faithfulness and loyal service to church and community." Flowers were placed throughout the church by the Mays' grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Lunch was served at the church. Jackie Barker is pastor.

Sunflower Baptist Church, Sunflower, is holding "Victory Day," Dec. 7. The program will begin at 11, break for a covered-dish dinner, and resume again at 1:30. Art Slatten of Greenwood and Gene Henderson of Columbus, two former pastors, will be the main speakers. All friends and former members are invited. A special noteburning ceremony will take place in the afternoon. Mike Thrower is pastor.

Elmo Church (Union-Adams Association) has completed the remodeling of its sanctuary with the installation of carpet and draperies. The exterior of the church has recently been repainted. Kenneth L. Anderson is pastor.

The Blue Mountain Singers gave a performance at Byhalia Church, Marshall County, on Nov. 23.

Byhalia Church at a Thanksgiving Dinner, Nov. 21, honored interim pastor Greer Gartrell and his wife with a silver candelabra set in appreciation for the eleven months he served at the church.

Genevieve Zachary, of Homer, La., formerly of Mississippi, has completed 27 years and six months of perfect attendance in all church services, plus Sunday School, Church Training, prayer meeting, and WMU.

THE VILLAGE VIEW

FROM
Baptist Children's Village

P. O. Box 11308

Jackson, MS 39213

December 4, 1980

PAUL N. MUNNERY

Executive Director

T. DEAN RODGERS

Asst. Executive Director

AN OPEN LETTER TO BAPTISTS OF MISSISSIPPI:

Dear Baptist Friend:

On December 1, money response to our annual HOLIDAY FUND appeal amounted only to approximately one-half of your gifts to that fund by the same date last year. Thus, these gifts, designated for the children at Christmas and for our year-long food and milk budget totaled only 80% of our minimum, annual need through the month of November. Because we need you and your help so desperately this year, I felt it my duty to give you this information and offer one added appeal.

Most of you already know that we ask you each year to include our boys and girls in your holiday planning by giving to the HOLIDAY FUND, and most of you already know that the majority of the money you give is used for the absolutely essential expense of our food and milk budget. The appeal of the Village is more urgent this year and our need is greater. Frankly, we must have added help, now, from some source! Inflation, which strikes us harder, because we must purchase everything, including the salaries of our home staff; the costlier job of caring for the older and more disturbed young people who now come to our care; and the substantial expense occasioned by servicing our capital indebtedness out of operating funds; these factors have accumulated to make it difficult for us to meet our daily expenses, from time to time, this year. I fear the Christmas season will be bleak for many Village children and more importantly, the New Year will be more difficult for the Village home upon which they depend unless you and I share more sacrificially with our child care mission this December.

To every American, Christmas means home and family as at no other season of the year. To Christians, home has a very special meaning in terms of warmth, love and safety at Christmas-time. Christianity — is perhaps most meaningful of all in the hearts and lives of little children. Our duty — our opportunity — is with children and youth who will never capture the special meaning of Christmas or accept the special message of Christianity, except as you help us help them. Think about it — could you give again?

Respectfully,

Paul N. Munnery

Executive Director

JACKSON CAMPUS - FARROW MANOR CAMPUS - NEW ALBANY HOME

The Village Cookbook — an excellent gift

Last year, the children and houseparents at The Baptist Children's Village edited and published a cookbook, featuring dishes as they are actually prepared and served daily in cottage life at the several Village facilities. The book is attractively bound and includes art work by a young man who lived at The Village at the time of publication. It is entitled "What's Cookin' at The Village," and dozens have al-



"Visions of sugar plums"
Expectant Village children admire the image of Santa.



Family Fall Festival

Baptist Young Women of First Church, Morton, in their desire to de-emphasize Halloween and yet provide food, candy, games and Christian fellowship for the entire family, organized a "Family Fall Festival."

The Festival was billed as "A Christian Alternative to Halloween." All types of games and events were provided. The cost of the celebration (not carnival) was paid by the church; no one was charged anything.

The adults, particularly Adult III (senior adults), had every bit as much fun as the children and youth. Many dressed as either biblical characters or in garb of long ago. The children and youths were encouraged to dress as either Biblical or cartoon characters. No one was allowed to dress in traditional Halloween costumes. A Weiner roast and hay ride for everyone concluded the activities.



Frank Nix, minister of music/youth at First, Morton, and his wife Angel, left, and James Spencer, pastor, and his wife Kathryn, right, were key personalities at the fall festival.

Polish Baptists Apply For Radio Broadcast Permission

WARSAW—Baptists in Poland have submitted an application to the State Radio-Television Committee requesting that their present radio broadcasts be transmitted from Warsaw.

Since 1960, the Baptist Union of Poland has produced evangelistic broadcasts which are recorded in Warsaw but aired from Monte Carlo by Trans-World Radio. The initial 15-minute program was supplemented by a second broadcast beginning in 1976. The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board and TWR assist with financing.

The programs are now heard Fridays and Saturdays of each week at 5:15 p.m.

Other Christian denominations in Poland have also made requests for state media time. Some of the applications are being formulated through the Polish Ecumenical Council, a Baptist spokesman said.

The director of the Bible Society in Poland, Mrs. Barbara Enholt-Narzynska, said that after recent transmission of a Roman Catholic mass in Poland, demand for Bibles went up sharply.

By Jerilynn Armstrong

DAINGERFIELD, Texas (BP)—Physical and emotional wounds are healing slowly and voices still crack with reminiscing, but the congregation of First Baptist Church of Daingerfield is turning tragedy into thanksgiving and triumph.

Five months ago—on June 22—Alvin Lee King III stormed into a Sunday morning worship service and sprayed the congregation with bullets, killing five people and wounding 10 others.

The scars and horror of that morning linger, but pastor Norman Crisp said: "As we approach the holidays I know it will be a difficult time for many in our congregation, but I believe I can speak for my people by saying that we as a church have many things to be thankful for."

"We give thanks that all five who lost their lives had publicly professed Christ as Savior."

"We are thankful for the heroic acts of Chris Hall and the two men who lost their lives—Kenneth Truitt and James 'Red' McDaniel.

— "We are thankful that all our wounded have been healed."

— "And we are thankful that this incident did not destroy our church but that God's presence is more apparent in our services than ever before and there is a joy and excitement among our people."

Crisp added, "No one questions why we conclude our Sunday morning services by joining hands and singing, 'Sweet, Sweet Spirit.'"

Much has happened since that Sunday morning in June. King recovered from a self-inflicted gunshot wound to the head, and presently is under psychiatric care in a hospital for the criminally insane.

The 10 wounded are at home, and the families of those who were killed say they have found God's strength to be sufficient in all circumstances.

Cheryl Linam and Laverne McDaniel lost family members in the tragedy. Both have found in God the strength to continue on.

Cheryl Linam's daughter, Regina, was fatally wounded. "The moment I

was told my seven-year-old daughter was dead, God spoke to my heart and told me not to hurt for Gina. He said she was with Him now and no amount of grief would bring her back. Instead, He had other things in store for me," Mrs. Linam said.

"I cannot begin to tell you the abundance of strength, inner peace and understanding the Lord has given to me since that day. Of course, I still miss Gina terribly and cry often but the Lord has allowed me to go forward and share my testimony in churches, revivals and banquets.

"Those who know me well can't believe it. Without God's help I would have crumbled and would probably be in a mental institution today. But instead, God has made a new Cheryl with a story to tell. I am thankful for a God as great as mine," she said.

Mrs. McDaniel was shot in the back on Sunday and her husband was killed as he and Truitt wrestled King out of the church.

"I'm thankful to be alive and very proud of my husband," Mrs. McDaniel

Devotional

The Three 'I Ams'

By John E. Barnes, Jr., Pastor, Main Street, Hattiesburg

Romans 1:14-16

The "I Ams" of Jesus give us a good picture of the Savior. Jesus said, "I am the door," "I am the good Shepherd," "I am the way, the truth, and the life." These and other "I am's" of the Master help us better to understand the ministry of Jesus.

Paul also has given us some "I am's" in Romans 1:14-16. In Paul's "I am's" we see the motivation for his wonderful life and ministry.

I. Paul said "I am debtor"—

Every Christian is in debt to everyone without Christ. Paul recognized this debt and spent his life traveling over the then known world telling others about the Savior. His motivation for soul winning was the recognition of his debt to every lost person.

Barnes We could call this a debt of position. Somewhere I read that a man in England was found guilty in court of murder. He never saw the child whose death he was found guilty of causing. It was proved that he heard the child's cry for help in a public swimming pool, and did nothing about it. The child drowned. He was in the position to save a life, and did not do it.

This is the position of every Christian. We too are debtors.

II. Paul also said "I am not Ashamed"—

If a person is ashamed of Jesus and His Gospel, he will never talk to others about the Lord. On the margin of an old Bible, someone wrote by this verse "I am proud of the gospel of Christ." If you are proud of someone, you are happy to tell others. This is true of grandparents talking to others about their grandchildren.

Paul was proud of Jesus, and he spent his life telling others about Him.

III. Paul also said "I am ready"—

Unless a person can say this, it really doesn't matter if he recognizes his debt or if he is not ashamed of the gospel. Unless we are ready to witness to others, we will never do it.

God needs followers who recognize their debt to the lost, who are not ashamed of Jesus, and who are ready to help win a lost world.

Daingerfield Tragedy Turning To Thanksgiving and Triumph

By Jerilynn Armstrong

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Cheryl Linam's daughter, Regina, was fatally wounded. "The moment I

said, "I'm also thankful for the Lord's strength and my wonderful family, pastor and friends. Without the help of others I wouldn't be here today."

"Of course at times I am very lonely and miss Red terribly but I don't question his actions. He and Ken Truitt saved so many lives by getting Alvin King out of the congregation," she said.

"Our people are recovering slowly, but I don't know if we will ever be able to say 'things are back to normal,'" Crisp said. "This incident will have a lasting effect on the hearts and minds of our church for years to come."

"But in the midst of our grief and recovery, God has blessed us. Our auditorium that seats 350 is filled to capacity and we have started a preschool and children's worship service which is averaging 100."

"I guess the most exciting thing is that we have had 31 professions of faith since June and more than 50 have joined the church by letter," he said. "This is double what our church has averaged in recent years."

Uniform Lesson

Matthew Presents The Messiah

By Jack Glaze, Chairman, Division of Religion, MC

Focal Passage: Matthew 1:17; 5:17-20; 9:2; 12:51-52

Lesson Background: The Uniform Series of Sunday School lessons begins a new series of study with this session. For the next five months the emphasis will be on the life and teachings of Jesus taken from the Gospel of Matthew. Following the previous study of the covenant, it is appropriate to carefully examine Matthew's presentation of Jesus as the fulfillment of the messianic hopes of the Old Testament.

Although the Gospel does not explicitly name the author, the early church tradition that assigns the literary composition to Matthew seems to carry considerable weight. There are certain ambiguities related to the authorship; however, it seems certain that Matthew was related to a formal collection of sayings of Jesus. It is possible that there could have existed a larger edition and that which we have is a condensed version. The assumption here is that Matthew was the inspired author of the Gospel.

It is difficult at times for twentieth century North Americans to recognize that the early believers did not immediately record the life of Jesus in formal written documents. Christianity spread by word of mouth: Jesus, the Christ (Messiah), was the promised one of God. He fulfilled the scriptures (Old Testament). His death and resurrection broke the bonds of sin; he ascended to the Father; he will come again; repent and believe for there is salvation in no other name. Eyewitnesses abounded, and there was a strong belief that Jesus would soon return. There was no felt need for written records.

With the passage of time Christianity spread geographically. Soon persecution, false beliefs, death of eyewitnesses, and the delay in Christ's return prompted the Holy Spirit to guide in the process of recording the accounts. First, the Gospel of Mark appeared (c. 70 A.D.). Mark concentrated on the last week of Jesus' earthly ministry. The limited details of the life of Jesus led to that climactic point, and there is a sense of excitement running through his work. (One can almost feel the presence of Peter behind Mark's words!) Matthew followed (c. 80 A.D.) with a more de-

tailed account of the background and teachings of Jesus. The work is systematically structured and supplements the earlier writing of Mark.

Matthew was a Jewish Christian. He wanted both Jews and Gentiles to clearly understand that Jesus was the Messiah and was supernaturally born. Furthermore, he carefully explained that Jesus fulfilled the Jewish Law. In effect, the King had come; the Kingdom of Heaven was at hand.

The Lesson Outlined:

I. The Author of the Book (Matthew 9:9). The call of Matthew is found in more detail in Mark 2:14-17 and Luke 5:27-32. Possibly Matthew had seen or heard Jesus previously. Capernaum was an important city, and Jesus made it his early headquarters. "The receipt of customs" was the office where duties on incoming goods were paid. It was not easy for Matthew to follow Jesus. He was a "publican," a Jew employed by the Romans to collect taxes in a given district. He was responsible for a specific sum of money and all over that amount was personal gain. Dishonesty was common in his profession, and consequently, publicans were notoriously wealthy; however, the price paid in social and religious rejection was great.

To Jesus' credit, he saw the potential in Matthew. His kingdom was large enough to include the unrighteous who would forsake their wicked ways and follow him. William Barclay (Gospel of Matthew, Vol. 1, pg. xxii) says that Matthew left everything behind except his pen. In time he would take that up again and become the respected author of the Gospel that bears his name.

II. The Lineage of the Messiah (Matthew 1:1-17). To most modern readers the genealogy of Jesus is boring reading. However, for the early believers, the introduction to the book was extremely important. The verse unite Jesus with the historical reality that characterizes Old Testament faith, and underscore his messianic role as the "son of David, the son of Abraham." Jesus' roots go back into the religious traditions revealed by God to the Jews. God had promised to make of Abraham a great nation (Gen. 12:1-3), and to establish the throne of David forever (2 Samuel 7:12-16).

Unexpectedly, women's names appear in the list (in a man's world) and these include gentiles: Rahab of



Life and Work Lesson

The Sweep of Christ's Love

By Bobby Perry

Director of Missions

Gulf Coast Association

Focal Passage:

Luke 7:12-15, 36-39, 47-50

The sweep of God's love reaches to all manner and conditions of people: Chapter 7 of Luke's Gospel gives a portrait of this truth. In this chapter Jesus' love reached out to a centurion and his sick servant (7:1-10). Jesus recognized the magnitude of the man's faith by saying to people gathered about him: "I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel" (vs. 9). Then, Jesus' love reached out the following day to a widow in the midst of her son's funeral procession (7:11-18). His love then reached into prison where John the Baptist was confined and comforted the discouraged forerunner (7:19-28). Following this, his love reached out to a Pharisee (7:36). The reach of this love was interrupted by a prostitute. So Jesus reached out in divine love to her (7:36-50).

A number of commentators on Luke note his special concern for women. Luke was very sensitive to those times in Jesus' ministry when he was considerate of women.

I. Divine Love Reaches Out to a Widow (7:11-17).

This is the only place in the Scripture that we find Nain mentioned. It was most likely the same city in Modern Israel known as Nein, some ten miles from Nazareth.

A. The Funeral Procession (7:12). This miracle was to be in sharp contrast to the previous encounter (v. 10). The centurion's servant was at the point of death. Jesus healed the man of his malady. Now our Master was faced with the challenge of a corpse.

B. The Grieving Widow (7:12). The size of the crowd indicates that the woman's grief was shared. It is also significant to note that the young man was her "only son." With his death had gone her only source of physical and financial protection. The family lineage would also be ended.

C. The Healer (7:13-15). We are inclined to look upon the fact of Jesus meeting the funeral procession at the precise moment when it was leaving the gate of the city as a mere chance or fortunate coincidence. But nothing really occurs by chance; there is no such divinity in the universe.

"And said unto her, weep not." This "weep not" is different from that addressed to the hired mourners of Jairus' household. There it was uttered in indignation, for the purpose of restoring quiet; here it is said in deepest sympathy, for the purpose of cheering and soothing. When Christ says, "Weep not," He does not mean to forbid tears, or to make us ashamed of them; but to give us a reason, a sufficient cause for drying our tears.

The stillness is broken by words such as "human ears had never heard before—'Young man, I say unto thee, arise.' The young man who was dead 'sat up' and began to speak. Jesus tenderly presented him to his mother.

II. Divine Love Reaches Out for the Sinful (7:36-50)

In that inquisitive crowd was a Pharisee named Simon. Simon invited Jesus to his house for dinner (v. 36). The reason for the invitation is not revealed. Perhaps he planned to entrap Jesus. Maybe it was an honest inquiry into the person of Jesus. Earlier Jesus had eaten with a tax collector named Levi; now, He was dining with a Pharisee named Simon.

A. The Remorse (7:37-38). Luke described this woman as "a sinner." Some have surmised that she was a prostitute. At any case, the remarks by Simon in verse 39 do give evidence that she had a bad reputation.

The woman entered the house where the dinner party was taking place. There is something interesting here in the place of the encounter. Simon might look upon her in hate, but Jesus looked upon her to manifest that the distinguishing grace which He is accustomed to exercise in the most sovereign manner had reached her heart. Thus, in Simon's house, the grace of God reached the sinner, but not the Pharisee.

This was not the first time she had seen the Lord. On some previous occasion virtue had gone out of Him to her, and had awakened new hope within her. Maybe she was convinced that she was already pardoned and accepted by God; and so, unmoved by surrounding circumstance, she "crashed the party" and threw herself upon His feet, and took this method of telling Him "all that was in her heart."

She came to Him, not as a penitent seeking pardon, but as a sinner already forgiven; and so that which

looked like extravagance to others was perfectly natural in her, and thoroughly acceptable to Him. Her tears were, as Luther calls them, "heart-water"; they were the distillation of her gratitude. She had not come indeed to weep; she had come intending only to use the ointment. But her tears burst forth upon her. In order that her original intent might be thoroughly realized, she wiped the tears from His feet, and then poured over Him the precious ointment.

B. The Response (7:47-48). The response of Simon and the others was predictable. Jesus knew Simon's inner thoughts.